

POOR MEATS SENT ABROAD

American System of Inspection Is
Condemned by British Food
Inspector.

SCRAPS SHIPPED IN BOXES

Vast Amount of Boneless Meats Dis-
carded Here As Not Good Enough
for American Find Their Way
In Exports to John Bull—
Pork Discarded.

London, Jan. 28.—It is often said that America sends her best beef, bacon and other foodstuffs to England, but if the report of Dr. G. Buchanan, food inspector of the British board of health, is correct, the American system of inspection is condemned by British food inspectors.

The local government board has now under consideration the question of taking action to minimize or remove the risks to health, which the present unrestricted admission of these foodstuffs entails, by the enforcement of regulations such as are authorized by the public health regulations as to food of the act of last year.

Dr. Buchanan, who has been carefully inquiring into the matter, condemns a lot of imports from America. The material chiefly in question is meat imported in boxes, barrels and other receptacles, which contain scraps, lumps, trimmings and other portions of such size and shape that they are not readily identified with the definite parts of a dressed carcass. Nearly all the importations from the United States consist of scrap meat, which has been packed in boxes and frozen. In other words, scrap meat, namely beef and pork, is one of the numerous articles included in the trade in American frozen box meat, which has been increasing in recent years.

The boneless beef received in England from the United States consists mainly of what is termed "chuck" or "loaf," which is being frozen, but in practice the term "chuck" seems to be used to comprise trimmings from all parts of the carcass, chiefly the lumps from the fore and hind quarters.

OF INFERIOR QUALITY.

They come, says the English inspector of food, from animals whose meat is of inferior quality to that which is exported to Great Britain in half or quarter carcasses as chilled meat. In summer the trade does not pay, in consequence of the quickness with which the contents of the boxes may go bad after leaving cold stores. This is characteristic of boneless chucks, and seems to be generally recognized by the meat inspectors at the central markets in London, who find that after the contents of the boxes have thawed their appearance soon becomes unsatisfactory.

The wholesale price of beef chucks is usually three pence per pound. Their chief sale is in Glasgow and the north of England. In Glasgow American boneless chucks are largely used to make minced mutton, and their increasing use there has led to a damaging effect on the Irish meat trade with the west of Scotland. In London the chief purchasers of boneless chucks are the makers of pies and sausages. The boxes are often sold unopened. Sometimes half boxes are sold, the box and its frozen contents being cut bodily across.

PORK A FROZEN SLAB.

Boneless pork from the United States consists mainly of boxes of pork cuttings, ham trimmings and the like. These arrive in boxes of sixty to eighty pounds weight. The contents of a box when opened consist of a solid frozen slab.

The price is usually about three pence or four pence per pound. It is said that the inspectors in England can afford to check whatever is sent to the existence of disease conditions in the animal when meat of this description is derived, nor can any such inspection operate as a check upon the use of uncleanly or objectionable methods of obtaining, treating, collecting or packing scrap meat in the place of its preparation. An inspector, however, can make nothing of chucks or trimmings while they are frozen hard, and all he can do in practice when they thaw is to look for signs of decomposition.

STRAIGHT FROM COLD STORE.

In the meat market the boxes are brought straight from the cold store and their contents are usually still frozen when seen by the market inspectors. Much boneless meat goes straight from the cold store to the purchaser without passing through the market.

It is doubtful, adds the inspector of

foods, whether any system of inspection, however rigid, can be regarded as satisfactory in the case of meat prepared for export in the form of scrap meat.

This form is rightly held in considerable suspicion by the health authorities. In the experience of Great Britain it has been found specially convenient to traders wishing to make profitable use of bad or doubtful meat of all kinds. Preparations of scrap meat, often of inferior quality to begin with, must involve a considerable amount of handling. Scraps may be collected from dirty floors or have been thrown into unclean receptacles, or are liable to have been killed or contaminated in ways.

Save for certain questions regarding tuberculosis, the instructions of the United States bureau of animal industry to the inspectors appeared to constitute a code which could be regarded as generally satisfactory from the health point of view. But, says the British inspector, it is quite another question how these regulations worked in practice. There were serious doubts as to the uniform efficiency of the system of inspection pursued.

STAFF INADEQUATE.

From the latest reports received, the staff of inspectors at packing houses must often have been wholly inadequate to secure a thorough inspection of carcasses from disease on the lines of the official instructions.

However hard working and competent the inspectors may have been, they have evidently been too few for the proper performance of inspection with regard to disease, which the label of "United States inspected" has professed to signify.

Previously there had been practically no control over the proceedings of packers once the carcasses had passed the inspectors. Until the last year, at any rate, the official labels have had no significance as regards preparation, cleanliness, chemical treatment and the like of meat imported in the form of scraps. The new United States meat inspection law has greatly increased the official staff of inspectors.

It has extended their supervision to all parts of the packers' premises and it may be taken to have already effected improvements which are to the advantage of the British consumer of American meat foods. But although henceforth the label "United States inspected" will doubt mean more than in the past, it would be rash at this stage to place too great reliance upon its significance when attached to boxes containing such a commodity as scrap meat prepared for export.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

In regard to pork, which forms a considerable proportion of the scrap meat from the United States, an important question arises with regard to tuberculosis. The like exported from the United States to England. They may consistently with the bureau of animal industry instructions be derived from animals which are suffering from a disease which is not infectious, provided that the disease, on naked eye examination, is limited to certain parts of the carcass, whereas it is the practice in London and certain provincial meat markets for the sanitary officers concerned to act upon the recommendation of the royal commission on tuberculosis of 1886 and to seize and reject the remainder of the carcass of an animal which shows signs of tuberculosis in any degree.

The home trader has a legitimate grievance if in these circumstances scraps of pork from tuberculous animals are allowed to come on the market for no other reason than that the condition of the animals from which they are derived cannot be ascertained by the inspectors in this country on the form of the imported scrap meat. Pork trimmings and other scraps of pig meat from the United States may consistently with the American meat inspection regulations have been derived from tuberculous animals which the health authorities in this country would not permit to be used for food.

The pig is an animal readily susceptible to infection by tuberculosis. In the pig the disease spreads with greater rapidity and tuberculosis shows a stronger tendency to become generalized than in the case of a bovine animal.

For these and other reasons there is substantial ground for regarding the meat of pigs which are affected by tuberculosis in any degree as potentially dangerous to the person consuming such meat. This view was taken by the royal commission on tuberculosis. The only safeguard against the disease in the case of box pork from the United States is the system of official inspection of meat intended for export on the premises of the packers in America by officers of the United States bureau of animal industry.

TUBERCULOSIS IN PIGS.

As regards tuberculosis in pigs the meat of which is to be exported to the United Kingdom, the official instructions to the United States meat inspectors differ from the recommendations of the royal commission of 1886.

As matters now stand, therefore, if the label "United States inspected" on packages of box pork from the United States affords a guarantee that the meat does not come from animals suffering from certain signs of tuberculosis, but it does not attest that none of the meat is derived from tuberculous pigs. Indeed, the United States regulations justify the assumption that some of the box pork comes from animals affected by tuberculosis.

I understand that the royal commission is now engaged in investigations relating more directly to pig tuberculosis. The results of these investigations when available will obviously require careful study, and possibly a further extension in particular directions before the board could be in a position to consider whether the standard which it has advised the local authorities to adopt on the authority of the commission of 1886 should be further insisted upon or should be modified in particular directions.

But there seems no reason to wait until a large policy in regard to home meat inspection applicable to such questions as tuberculosis in pigs has been formulated and set on foot, or to wait for the result of a detailed inquiry as to the relative degree of danger from the meat of pigs affected by tuberculosis of one or another variety, in order to improve the present position with regard to tuberculosis in imported pork. If in the interim measures can be taken to secure greater wholesomeness as regards tuberculosis of the large part of the pork consumed in this country, which comes in from abroad, a considerable advantage would be gained from the point of view of the public health, while incidentally a just cause of complaint from the home traders would be removed.

TRADE IN COOKED TRIPE.

The trade in already cooked tripe is almost wholly from the United States. A quarter of a pound of this tripe, which may be considered to be a moderate meal, must often contain more than the maximum dose of boracic acid prescribed for an adult by the British Pharmacopoeia.

Conveniently located in the central part of the business section of Burlington, Vt.,

Chittenden County Trust Company

offers exceptional facilities for the transaction of ALL BANKING OR FIDUCIARY BUSINESS.

We handle accounts subject to check. We have safe deposit boxes for rent. We pay 4% interest and all the taxes in this State on savings deposits.

WE MAKE BANKING BY MAIL A SPECIALTY.

President: E. J. BOOTH. Vice-President: JOHN J. FLYNN. Treasurer: E. D. WORTHEN. Asst. Treasurer: HARRIS T. HALL.

Many persons who eat this tripe incur a definite risk to their health. The new meat inspection law of the United States and the regulations made thereunder have now made it illegal for American packers to use borax or boric acid, sulphites or sulphurous acid and certain other preservative substances in the preparation of the meat foods.

The American packer who prepares preserved tripe of the kind above considered, if he is to comply with the new law and new official regulations, has to carry out the preservative treatment in portions of his establishment which are specially set aside for the purpose and must label his preserved products in a prescribed manner to indicate that the goods are intended solely for export. In these special portions of his premises the packer is permitted by the meat inspection law to carry out any preservative treatment which he requires for his foreign trade, provided that no substance is used in the preparation or packing in conflict with the laws of the foreign country to which the articles to be exported.

The British laws do not in the present circumstances afford any protection in this respect to the British consumer.

The total amount of cooked or uncooked foreign preserved tripe imported into the United Kingdom is small by comparison with the total quantity of tripe available to the British consumer.

These kinds of tripe appear to constitute a distinct risk to health which it is desirable to remove. Prohibition of their importation would cause little or no difference in the supply of this important food to the public. It would no doubt affect the United States trade, but it would be open to American traders to revise their methods.

VERMONT NOTES

Thomas C. Cheney of Morrisville will be the Memorial day orator at Northfield this year.

Owing to lack of snow lumbering operations at Stowe are practically at a standstill.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Williams of Jericho will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary today.

William Colleton of Barton, who was 76 years old on Christmas day, has cut and drawn eight cords of wood this winter without assistance.

Chauncey G. Austin Jr. of St. Albans has been mentioned there as good available timber for the office of attorney-general.

The Fair Haven shirt factory is rushed with orders and there is every indication of a busy season for the 40 and more hands employed there.

The postoffice at East Orange has been ordered discontinued February 26. It will be succeeded by a rural delivery route starting from the office at Washington.

The Rutland railroad is said to have spent \$100,000 in permanent improvements during 1907 and its earnings for the same period are reported to have been over \$300,000.

A. H. Jaquith, a Vernon farmer, ran his sleigh over a snake two feet long on the road to Brattleboro. The snake is exhibited as an unusual curiosity for this time of year.

The citizens of Barre have subscribed \$500 towards replacing the electric light plant in that village which was destroyed by fire on the night of January 15. The plant was owned by Dan Jenkins.

The lake froze across from Grand Isle to Cumberland head January 24 and has not broken up yet. January 24 was the date on which the first team crossed to Plattsburgh on the ice last year.

Joseph C. Jones of Rutland and Frank W. Williams of Brandon announce themselves as candidates for State's attorney of Rutland county. R. A. Lawrence the present incumbent, will not run again.

Everett W. Lord, superintendent of schools in Rockingham from 1890 to 1902 and since then assistant superintendent of education in Portland, has returned to Boston, where he represents the national child labor committee in New England.

Mrs. Medard Lanctot, who died at Clinton, Mass., at the age of 77 years, was the mother of John Lanctot of St. Johnsbury. She had 15 children of whom five are living, 30 grandchildren, 120 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

The voters of the town of Rutland have decided to build a school building and town hall at a cost of \$70,000. To take the place of the school house burned a few weeks ago. The town never has had a suitable place for town meetings.

All the fruit, tobacco and drug stores were open as usual in Rutland Sunday. Mayor Richmond, who a few weeks ago ordered their closing on that day, says now that he does not think it devolves upon him to do anything in the matter, but that the city prosecutors should take action.

Bishop Hall of Burlington officiated Monday at the funeral of the Rev. William B. Clift at Fair Haven. Mr. Clift, who was 43 years old, had been rector of St. Luke's Episcopal mission in Fair Haven for six years. He was a graduate of Middlebury College and is survived by a wife and son.

In the annual report of Chief of Police Whittaker of Rutland, that official recommends the appointment of two more regular officers and gives the number of arrests made in 1907 as 402. The total amount of fines and costs imposed in city court was \$1,684.59. Of this sum, \$2,483.44 was paid in cash.

A premature blast at the quarry of the Mahar Slate company at Fair Haven nearly cost the lives of two men, Matthew and Robert Mahar. The latter was badly injured and has lost the sight of one eye. Matthew was burned about the face but will be able to blast some more in two weeks.

Major and Mrs. H. W. Hovey and Miss Hovey have returned from the Philippines and are stopping for the present at the hotel in Northfield. Major Hovey was formerly commandant at Norwich Univer-

sity and was recently retired from the army on account of physical disability.

L. J. Bolster, the richest man in Barre town, narrowly escaped death last week while driving down a hill from his wood lot. He was thrown out and landed on his head and shoulders 20 feet from the road. It was with great difficulty that Mr. Bolster, who was alone, could manage to get his team in shape to drive home.

Judge Edward L. Bates of Bennington celebrated his 90th birthday Friday with a smoker and musical given 50 members of the Bennington club of which the judge is president. Supper was served followed by toasts and music and a jolly time. The genial host said he hadn't had such a good time since he owned the first pair of club skates in Bennington nearly 40 years ago.

Miss Ida Greiner of Lynn, Mass., has found her little sister, Della, at Ludlow. They had been separated for 10 years as stated in the Free Press a few weeks ago. Della read the account, at once wrote to her sister and the latter hastened to Ludlow where the reunion took place. Della Greiner was adopted from a convent school in Worcester, Mass., by Charles Greiner of Ludlow, who 19 years ago lived in Woonsocket, R. I.

The New York Telegram says that

Benjamin Franklin of Bennington joined

"this Ben Franklin" company at Bennington last week as musical director. It was the first good luck he had had all winter, but lasted only till the next morning. Then his feet entered into an argument with a piece of ice and when he was restored to consciousness it was discovered that he had broken a ligament in his left wrist. Another man now leads the show orchestra.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Pierce, an aged

Mendon couple, returned from church

Sunday and found their hired man had

hanged himself in the front hall. He was Benjamin Brunson, 28 years old, formerly a marble polisher for the Vermont Marble company at Freetown. He left his job there about Christmas without warning and went to Mendon, where he wanted to do work of any kind. He was in good health and at all dependent on his friends and he had at the time a good salary. A father and mother in Sweden are his only near relatives.

Throuble over taxes, arising with the

refusal of J. C. Young to pay a poll

tax in Newfane in 1907, was culminated

in a hearing before the board of civil

taxing of Mr. Young for 1907. He owns a coal mine in Missouri and claims

Milam, that State as his legal residence. He married a Newfane woman and she has continued to reside in Williamsville, a village in that town, each side in the controversy. Mr. Young was represented by counsel at the hearing, which lasted all day and ended with the award of civil authority still at sea as to the law in the case.

The barbers of Barre have presented

a new bill of prices to the proprietors

of shops in that city and Montpelier,

to take the place of the existing

agreement which expires April 1. They

call for shorter hours and higher

prices. Under the present scale the

minimum wage is \$11 a week nine

months of the year and \$12 a week

for the months of January, February

and March and the shops close Mon-

day at noon. The new proposal is for

a minimum wage of \$15 a week the

year around, the shops to close Mon-

day at noon and Thursday at six

o'clock at night.

AYRSHIRE BREEDERS' MEETING.

At the 23rd annual meeting of the

Ayrshire breeders' association held in

Barre January 15, about 50 were present.

Reports showed 10 new members and 14

deaths the past year. C. M. Winslow of

Brandon was re-elected secretary and

editor. The award for prizes in the home

dairy test for last year was as follows:

First herd prize of \$500, for five cows,

giving 4,650 pounds of milk and 1,722

pounds of butter to E. J. Fletcher, Green-

field, N. H.; second herd prize of \$300,

for five cows giving 3,416 pounds of

milk and 1,720 pounds of butter to J. P.

Butterfield, South Montpelier, Vt.; third

herd prize of \$250, for five cows, giving

3,416 pounds of milk and 1,720 pounds of

butter, to C. M. Winslow & Son Brandon.

FURTHER DATES FOR

FARMERS' MEETINGS.

Additional dates for meetings of the

State board of agriculture are announced

as follows: Morrisville, February 4; East

Hardwick, February 5; Barre, February 6;

Hardford, February 7; Londonderry,

February 8; Montpelier, February 11;

Brattleboro, February 12; Westmont,

February 14; Waterbury, February 15;

East Montpelier, February 16; Randolph,

February 20; South Royalton, February 21.

Meetings will be held each day at two

o'clock in the afternoon and seven in the

evening. The board will be ably assisted

by Dr. H. D. Hildreth, secretary; State

board of health, Mass. S. Stone, State

superintendent of education, Charles W.

Gates, State highway commissioner; G.

H. Terrill of Morrisville; W. F. Mc-

Sparren of Freetown; A. M. Jones of

Brandon; W. Walker McKee, ex-secretary

Maine State board of agriculture; Prof. L. R.

Jones and Dr. L. H. Hills of Vermont ex-

periment station; C. R. Pettis, State

forester of New York; a representative

of the Vermont tuberculosis commission;

ex-Gov. C. J. Bell; Wilbur Wheeler,

fruit specialist, Concord, Mass., and other

specialists. Governor Fletcher D. Proctor

will be present as many of the meet-

ings as possible in connection with his

other official duties.

"Little dabs of Powder"

Little dabs of Powder

Of course will make a pale face

Look as if it aint."

But a little Rydals's Tonic

Taken twice a day

Makes the pale cheeks rosy

In wise old Nature's way.

It beats the artificial

Applied both thick and thin,

And can't be rubbed off with a rag

For its underneath the skin.

So throw away your paint box Lads,

The paintless pink looks best,

And Rydals's Tonic never fails.

Whenever given a test—J. W. O'Sullivan,

Burlington, Vt., and Shanley & Estey

of Winooski.

UNKNOWN MAN WAS MURDERED

Mystery Surrounds Discovery of
Corpse in Woods at Swanton
Junction.

CORD TWISTED ABOUT NECK.

Signs of Struggle in Trampled Earth
—Blood Marks, Too—Clothing
Shows He Was a Laborer—
Evidently a Foreigner about
25 Years Old.

Swanton, Jan. 28.—Mystery surrounds the discovery to-day of a murdered man in the woods about one half mile this side of Swanton Junction. The frozen body was found by Charles Fitchard, a woodchopper, as he was going to his work this morning. He immediately notified the authorities and the body was viewed by State's Attorney Tupper, Deputy Sheriff John Miles, Constable Nolan, Selectman Donaldson and others.

The victim was a young Poleander or Italian, about 25 years old. Around his neck was a strong cord and in it was twisted a stick about eighteen inches long, which evidently had been used by the murderer in strangling his victim. About the body were signs of a struggle and some blood marks. From the deep marks in the ground it seems probable that the deed was committed during the recent thaw, as the foot-prints were sunk more deeply than would have been possible in freezing weather.

The authorities are positive that it is a case of murder because it would have been impossible for the man to have taken his own life in the manner indicated. His clothing shows that he was a laborer but nothing on the body offers positive clue as to his identity, neither is he known in this neighborhood.

The body was ordered removed to a local undertaking establishment, where it will be held in an effort to learn who the dead man was and who killed him.

DESCRIPTION OF BODY.

The body lay with head down, showing at a glance the cause of death, a stout piece of steel cord knotted tightly about the neck, in which a stout stick had been twisted and used as a twister to tighten the cord and then stuck down the coat collar of the dead man, thus holding the cord securely in place. The corpse is that of a young man, stockily built about 5 feet 5 inches, very dark complexioned and exhibiting doubt a foreigner, probably a Poleander or Italian. His face had been scratched and bruised, showing evidences of a struggle, while the arms were held rigidly in front, as though they had been held by a second accomplice while the murderer garrotted the victim.

The pockets of the dead man was a day envelope, dated December 3, marked to contain \$15, and marked with the number 49. There was also a wallet containing \$1 all in Canadian change, a string of prayer beads, a Catholic prayer book thought to be printed in Polish, a new shirt, white and red, and some cotton cloth.

HINTS OF "BLACK HAND."

No one has yet been found who saw or heard of a fight anywhere around here, or heard any cries of assistance; neither can anyone yet identify the victim. It is possible that he is one of the numerous members of the gang of foreign laborers who have been employed on the new water works system now being put in between Fairfield pond and Swanton; the laborers on this job are almost entirely foreigners, and a wicked and desperate looking lot, of whom many hard stories are reported. Strong hints of the "black hand" and its terrifying methods of extortion have been thrown out by some of the gang who have quit work and gone back to New York.

Three different Italians have told of being followed and held up and made to disgorge with the greater portion of their earnings, before being allowed to depart, and all were sent off with a parting injunction, never if they valued their lives as